

## NEW PHALÆNIDÆ (LEPID.)

BY WILLIAM BARNES AND F. H. BENJAMIN

*Decatur, Illinois***Mesembragrotis** Barnes and Benjamin, gen. nov.Type *Mesembragrotis ruckesi* sp. nov.

Proboscis fully developed; palpi upturned, extending about equally with the frontal armature, the second joint scaled and not conspicuously fringed with hair, the third, moderate, porrect; frons with a truncate conical prominence with a flat vertical corneous process at middle like a beak; eyes rounded, naked, unciliated; antennæ of male scarcely serrate, fasciculate, laterally doubly fasciculate from each joint; antennæ of female simple, ciliated; head and thorax clothed with broad serrate scales, with very little hair; prothorax with a slight spreading crest; mesothorax with double tufts; metathorax with a large scale tuft; all tibiæ strongly spined, the fore tibiæ also armed distally with two heavy claws on each side. Fore wing with veins 3 and 5 from close to the angle of the cell, 6 from somewhat below upper angle; 9 from 10, anastomosing with 8 to form the areole; 11 from cell. Hind wing with veins 3, 4 from angle of cell; 5 obsolescent from somewhat below middle of discocellulars; 6, 7 stalked or connate, variable individually.

Presumably allied to *Mesembreuxoa* Hamps. but differing on palpi, antennæ, vestiture, and probably also on tibial armature.

**Mesembragrotis ruckesi** Barnes and Benjamin, sp. nov.

Head and thorax mixed black, rufous and ochreous; collar with more or less of a transverse black stripe. Fore wing with ground color grayish ochreous, more or less heavily shaded and powdered by black and appearing quite dark; basal line indicated on costa; t. a. line blackish, wavy; claviform long, black outlined; orbicular irregularly ovate, variable in exact shape, black outlined; reniform irregular, whitish, black outlined, with more or less of a dusky crescent which may or may not have a paler center; t. p. line black, produced to points on the veins, bent outward on costa, more or less incurved in discal fold, and more strongly so in submedian fold; s. t. line dentate, outwardly defined by a pale shade; a terminal series of black points. Hind wing white tinged with fuscous especially on veins and toward the termen.

The species has much the appearance of a "*Euxoa*" of the *tessellata* group.

*Type locality*: near **Alpine, Texas** (O. C. Poling).

*Number and sexes of types*: Holotype ♂, 1-7 September, 1926; allotype ♀, 22-31 August, 1926; 6 ♂ 10 ♀ paratypes, 22-31 August and 1-7 September, 1926.

## NACOPA B. and Benj.

Type *Acopa bistrigata* B. and McD.

1924, B. and Benj., Contrib., V, (3), 151.

We commented upon this genus in our original description. The types of *bistrigata*, and only examples known to us were both rather poor and considerably rubbed. From a series of another species, described below, and which seems surely closely allied, we would now place the genus in the Cuculliinæ, as the eyes appear distinctly lashed, the lashes long but probably easily broken off.

In the Cuculliinæ *Nacopa* seems to have no close allies. We are inclined to place it near *Euros* Hy. Edw. mainly because of its Heliothid habitus.

*Nacopa melanderi* Barnes & Benjamin, sp. nov.

Male. Mouse gray irrorated with white; fore wing with basal line as a white dot on costa; t. a. line as a white w-mark; t. p. line white, nearly erect, joined by a curved white mark in cell which takes the place of a reniform and isolates an irregular spot of ground color; s. t. line white, waved from costa to inner margin; fringe pale, checkered. Hind wing pale gray.

What we take to be females of the same species are two specimens possessing exactly the same markings as the males, but with the ground color bright rufous.

The species is closely allied to *bistrigata*, but the male antennæ are strongly serrate. In *bistrigata* there appears to be only two transverse white bands because the upper part of the t. p. and the lower part of the s. t. lines are practically obliterated, while the upper part of the s. t. line is practically joined to the lower part of the t. p. line, thus parts of two lines form a single line. The name *bistrigata* is obviously based on this line and the t. a. line. *N. melanderi* clearly shows three distinct transverse white lines isolated by ground color.

Type locality: near **Alpine, Texas** (O. C. Poling).

Number and sexes of types: Holotype ♂, 8-14 July, 1926; allotype ♀, 1-7 April, 1926; 13 ♂ 1 ♀ Paratypes, various dates of May and July.

"Polia" *buscki* Barnes and Benjamin, sp. nov.

Hair on eyes present but rather sparse.

Male. Antennæ ciliated, the joints slightly marked. Ground color of head, thorax and fore wing dull olive gray tinged with brown and

irrorated with black; base of wing blackish; basal line irregular, mainly visible as a filling of ground color; t. a. line waved; orbicular round, minute, more or less obsolescent, surrounded by a black ring; reniform large, poorly defined, almost as a blotch; median area of wing black; t. p. line produced to points on the veins, oblique on costa, excurved about cell, incurved in submedian fold; s. t. line waved, pale, inwardly marked by some black more or less tending to form sagittate marks, outwardly marked by diffuse black shades; an obsolescent terminal line; fringes luteous at base, with black inter-line and checkering, and pale tips. Hind wing nearly pure white, without discal spot or transverse line, the veins slightly tinged with fuscous. Beneath: white, powdered with fuscous along costal margins.

Female. Similar, but with hind wing more clouded with fuscous.

We know of no closely allied North American species, and suggest placement following *marinitincta*.

Expanse: 30-31 mm.

*Type locality*: near **Alpine, Brewster Co., Texas** (O. C. Poling).

*Number and sexes of types*: Holotype ♂, 15-30 May, 1926; allotype ♀, 8-14 May, 1926; 1 ♂ paratype, 8-14 July, 1926; 2 ♀ paratypes, 22-30 May, 1926.

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## ON THE IDENTITY OF *ASTHENA LUCATA* GN. (LEPID., GEOMETRIDÆ)

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This species was described by Guenée, 1857, Spec. Gén., IX, 437, based on a single female from Canada.

A female, figured by Oberthur (f. 3398), is in the Barnes collection. It bears labels "Canada," "ex Musæo Ach. Guenée," "Typicum Specimen." This specimen agrees well with the original description which is decidedly violated by the species heretofore placed as *lucata*. We think it is the type. It is in rather poor condition, without body or hind legs. We have seen no other examples like it. It belongs to the group with single accessory cell, twelve veins to the primary, unarmed fore tibiæ, m. d. c. vein of hind wing nearly erect, short palpi, and dark frons. It has much the markings and appearance of a pale *Hydrelia inornata*, but with the size of *Venusia cambrica*. Tentatively we leave the species in *Hydrelia*. The name *condensata* Wlk. becomes available for *lucata* Auct. nec Gn.